143 Curtis Avenue
Williamstown, NJ 08046

28 June 1993 10:02am

Mr. Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, MD 21702

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

Having been here in New Jersey for three weeks, I am now ready to move...it's almost like a foreign country...and that not in favorable terms...

Thank you for your letter of the 20th instant and the warning on Lifton...when I moved here I terminated my COMPUSERVE membership as there are no local telephone numbers which will link me into the system...I would have to pay a long distance charge for the connection and then the usage fees on top of that...I decided to keep the money because the local system I discovered will meet almost all of my communications needs at almost no cost...admittedly, it doesn't have the richness of COMPUSERVE within its structure but it's much less expensive and now faced with a considerably diminished income dollars have suddenly, and for the first time, become important.

As to Lifton, I never found his work persuasive when I first encountered it and you have assisted me in viewing this entire situation with a more judicious view to facts vice opinions...as you suggested, Lifton took a term of art, *best evidence*, and perverted it beyond most measure.

I find it interesting that you, never (this is an assumption on my part) having had the *pleasure* of accessing the computer network I mentioned, hit the nail full square...most of the conversation is by, as you said, *idle theorizers*. I have followed the conversation now for three weeks and your suggestion is highly accurate. I posted a few messages to a couple of folks to see what response I could elicit. I kept them *private* so as to avoid the *opinionators*. I have not received any replies and I'm not certain, because of the lack of replies, about *private* messages. Although the software permits tagging a message thusly, it may be that in these *public* conferences the system itself may not permit *private* messages; the private stuff may be required to be sent in another compartment. I'll work that out this week.

Your point about the FAX machine and the deranged is one I hadn't considered...*mea culpa*

I have just reached the point where I can begin to spend some time on my reading again and I started to re-read Latona's testimony at 4H1 and was struck with his and Eisenberg's dance around the issue of the fingerprint cards and what the FBI had and when they had it. As you

have constantly pointed out to me, the choreography was wonderful, if not scripted and rehearsed...I am now beginning to see the entire report as a movie...the final version and we see none of the writing, rehearsing, and editing. At one point Eisenberg seems verged to uncover something significant and immediately retreats...

(4H6f)

Mr. Eisenberg. Did you receive a second submission of known prints?
Mr. Latona. Yes; we did.
Mr. Eisenberg. When did you receive those?
Mr. Latona. Those were received in the identification division on November 29,1963.
Mr. Eisenberg. Did this include two palms, or was this simply - -
Mr. Latona. No; it did not. It was simply a fingerprint card.
Mr. Eisenberg. Do you know why this second submission was made?
Mr. latona. The second submission was made, I believe, in order to advise us formally that the subject, Lee Harvey Oswald, had been killed, and it has the notation on the back that he was shot and killed 11-24-63 while being transferred in custody.

This card became CE630. Interestingly, it is marked "Refused to Sign"...even Eisenberg queried Latona about this

(4H17)

Mr. Eisenberg. Mr. Latona, Exhibit 630, which is one of the known 10-print cards submitted by the Dallas office, {of the FBI} is marked "Refused to sign" in the box with the printed caption "Signature of person fingerprinted." Do you recall whether Lee Harvey oswald signed the Marine Corps card?
Mr. Latona. I do not.
Mr. Eisenberg. I think it would be interesting, for the record, to see if that is signed, and, of course, as we read the record and get the card, we will be able to note that information.

Some questions that immediately came to mind were:

> Instead of musing about Oswald's Marine Corps card, why did Oswald refuse to sign the fingerprint card? He had signed the Dallas Police Department's fingerprint card. I have to look up the New Orleans card.
>
> Why was there no signature identifying who took the fingerprints?
>
> Why was the fingerprint card dated 11/25/63? This was the day after Oswald had been murdered by Ruby.

It occurs to me that this is indirect affirmation of the undertaker's (his name escapes me as i write) commentary regarding officials coming to the funeral home on Sunday night and his post-visit discovery of fingerprint ink on LHO's hands.

I now wonder...did Latona know the prints were made post mortem? Did Eisenberg?

Of further interest is both of their lack of knowledge regarding the Marine fingerprint card...it had been available to the FBI since it was entered into their record system on 24 October 1956

as is clearly established by CE1413 (22H891)...surely, given only three cards it would not be difficult to remember whether the subject had "signed" each of the cards...this would not be too much to expect from either the WC and its counsel or the FBI's fingerprint expert.

CD82, which was supplied to the WC by the Department of Defense on 10 January 1964 did not contain a copy of Lee Harvey Oswald's Armed Forces fingerprint record which was made on 10 October 1956. However, CD365 which was forwarded to the WC by Thomas D. Burbank, Director, Department of Public Safety, State of Louisiana included not only a copy of a fingerprint record created incidental to Oswald's arrest in New Orleans on 9 August 1963 but also a copy of the FBI's fingerprint record of Lee Harvey Oswald. This record clearly establishes that the FBI, in August 1963, had at least two distinct fingerprint records on Lee Harvey Oswald; his Marine entrance record and the record made by the New Orleans Police. (22H821)

During his testimony Dulles asked Latona:

Mr. Dulles. Do you know whether any fingerprints were taken after Lee Harvey oswald returned from the Soviet Union?
Mr. Latona. Those after he was arrested in connection with this particular offense.
Mr. Dulles. Apart from the fingerprints obtained in connection with the assassination.
Mr. Latona. I do not. (4H16)

Either Latona was lying or he hadn't researched the FBI files of which he had expressed such pride.

A small point, but as I read these small things begin to burden the camel...and they can't all be coincidental...

Well, I've occupied enough of your time and I want to post this with this morning's mail...a recent revelation to me...I don't have to go to the post office or find a mailbox...I just put the mail in my box and the mailman takes it...it took me 45 years to discover the blindingly obvious...perhaps I was overpayed all those years??!!

Regards to Mrs. Weisberg.

Sincerely,

John W. Masland

P.S. My sister thanks you for the kudos!